

FIGHTING TALK

Issue 14

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THE NATURE OF THE BEAST



Anti-Fascist
Action

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APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

WE URGE ALL OUR READERS TO SEND ANY INFORMATION ON FASCISTS IN THEIR AREA DIRECT TO AFA. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THE MILITANT ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENT HAS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SUCCESSFULLY BEAT THE FASCISTS.

JOIN AFA

In the fight against fascism in Britain, Anti-Fascist Action has a record that is second to none. Our unique combination of physical confrontation and ideological struggle has produced results time and again.

We say no platform for fascists - no meetings, no marches, no paper sales, no leafleting - and we mean it, as the fascists know only too well. Our aim is to cause the maximum disruption to fascist activities.

But that doesn't mean that AFA only needs street-fighters. Far from it. Everyone has a role to play in AFA, whether they feel confident in physical confrontations or not.

None of our successes in physically confronting the fascists would have been possible without the contribution of non-combatants. From legal observers to scouts, from leafleters to people who can write articles or speak at meetings, AFA needs people with a whole range of skills if it is to continue to succeed.

There's a lot to do, so don't wait around. Join today.

Contact your local group for affiliation rates and activities.

AFA CONTACTS

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IN THE AREA

Welcome to Issue 14 of Fighting Talk, and we start with our usual round up of news and views from the front line against fascism.

SCOTLAND

AFA in Glasgow is operating against the background of 3 politically motivated murders of young Celtic supporters by fascists/Loyalists. This increasingly violent move by the forces of the Far Right led to a planned attack on a Celtic pub after a Celtic vs. Rangers game earlier this year. The political nature of this attack was clear because the 30-strong outfit that attacked the Celtic supporters inside were seig-heiling and shouting "BNP" and "C18". It is no coincidence that a small group of Celtic supporters connected to AFA used this pub. While others make excuses and stand back to allow the fascists to continue to try and impose their reign of terror unhindered, Glasgow AFA has responded emphatically to these attacks with two successful operations against C18 and their allies.

In April, Edinburgh AFA members were on their way to a meeting when they spotted a number of fascists acting suspiciously. Realising the fascists were planning an attack the anti-fascists responded in the traditional manner and the fascist raiding party was decisively despatched.

BOLTON

A planned Loyalist march through Bolton on Saturday 13th April was stopped by Greater Manchester police after AFA members clashed with C18 stewards and police officers. This coincided with the arrival of a group of local Asian youths in the area, and meant the police couldn't guarantee public order if the march went ahead. The march was organised by the English Amalgamated Committee of the Apprentice Boys of Londonderry and attracted the attention of AFA because a similar march in London the previous year had come complete with in-house C18 security. Enquiries had confirmed that this would be the case this year and plans were put into operation to ensure that the Loyalists would know that there would be a price to pay for aligning with fascists.



Active fascist Dave Appleyard (on the left) stewarding the Loyalist disaster in Bolton. Personal disaster struck shortly afterwards - getting stabbed-up back in Leeds.

As AFA approached the fascist assembly point we were spotted by the police who called in reinforcements including dogs and horses. During the ensuing chaos C18 stayed firmly behind police lines but continued to shout the odds. Suddenly the situation changed as 3 members of Oldham C18 found themselves on the wrong side of the police and were pushed into the AFA group. They were given a kicking as their racial comrades looked on. Intensified police activity made any further intervention impossible, and the AFA group dispersed soon afterwards. The Loyalists should be aware that their meeting room, buffet, and march were all cancelled and disrupted because of their alliance with C18, and we will continue to monitor their activities.

LONDON

Two weeks after the Bolton fiasco the Loyalists had a second march in Central London. Once again the information was that C18 would be in attendance. AFA mobilised over 100 stewards to confront the fascists/Loyalists and, despite a heavy police operation from early in the morning, a full blooded assault was successfully made on one of their pubs. Once contact had been made inevitably the police swamped the area and further confrontation became impossible. What was significant was for the second time in two weeks C18 had been unable to protect the march. The march itself saw

a much smaller C18 contingent than last year (possibly related to fall-out from Bolton?) although a number of familiar faces from C18, BNP, and the old NF were present.

Although unable to stop the demonstration the AFA intervention puts considerable pressure on the organisers and their fascist allies. Last year Searchlight had advance warning of the C18/Loyalist operation but "because of the danger of serious violence Searchlight did not inform anti-fascist groups of the march. The anti-fascist movement at present has difficulty mobilising sufficient numbers." (Searchlight, June 95). This is untrue. Given the information AFA is willing and able to mobilise and confront C18. On the day a few small groups of anti-fascists (some militant) chose to operate independently and predictably achieved nothing. If militant anti-fascists co-ordinate their activities more can be achieved. Once again AFA was able 'to make a difference'.

KENT

In Gravesend the ANL 'outed' Jim Taylor of Squadron, until recently one of Blood and Honour's top bands. Ignoring the possibility that this might ruin ongoing anti-fascist work, they made matters worse by demanding that he should be prosecuted and "the information was passed onto the local police. Expecting

AFA ROUND-UP

some sort of action the campaigners were surprised when absolutely nothing happened." (The Law, April 96). So there you have it - the ANL strategy; contact the police and then get outraged when nothing happens. Wonderful! In contrast AFA stewards from Kent and South London visited a local pub frequented by fascists and although the 'main course' was away at least one fascist has decided to call it a day - without even a punch being thrown.

ARA

In case you were wondering what had happened to the over-funded ARA, their most recent disaster was a National Demonstration Against Racism (23.3.96) 'supported' by the TUC and a host of national and international 'organisations'. Predictably only about 100 people turned up, so the police wouldn't even let them march on the road, making them walk on the pavement instead. To add insult to injury they got hassled by a group of fascists at Trafalgar Square and had to demand that the police clear them out of the way.

DEVON

The National Democrats in Devon have come up with a radical new policy to go with their radical new name. Not for them the traditional Far Right fare of race hatred and street violence - the NDs are into some serious community politics. "Are you getting on a bit in years or disabled and have nobody to help you with that awkward job? Well, we just might be able to help you as the National Democrats have just launched a Community Help Scheme in your area. We can cut your grass; shift that heavy object; do general odd jobs and most unskilled manual work." (ND leaflet). So give them a ring and thousands of beautifully dressed Aryans will help your old folk across the road to a racially pure future - where the grass is greener and always trim.

HERTS

Another group into 'community' politics is also a split from the old NF, Patrick Harrington's Third Way. One of their key activists, Brent Cheetham, lives in the Hertfordshire village of Cuffley and produces a local bulletin - The Cuffley Courier. Never one to duck the issues, Brent acted swiftly when disaster struck, "The theft of the village pump has left a void in Cuffley. We think it should be replaced to make Cuffley whole again." Absolutely.

NORTH EAST

AFA is growing in the North East and a large group of militants have recently joined. At present we are working out a new structure for the area, but the new

group can be contacted at PO Box 1TA, Newcastle, NE99 1TA. Although mainly based in Newcastle there are also contacts in Sunderland, Teeside, and Durham. The fascists have been decorating Newcastle city centre with slogans like 'Free Myra Hindley', 'Grass Up Dole Scroungers' and 'The Milky Bar Kid is a Nazi' - all with AFA's name attached - and the suspicion is that it is the same sad group of fascists who recently met AFA's newest recruits outside one of their pubs, and took a resounding second prize.

IRELAND

There has been very little fascist activity in the south of Ireland although one idiot obviously got carried away after the (former) BNP press officer Michael Newland spoke at Cork University in January. He was handing out BNP leaflets in the city centre until a passing Republican threw him head first into a skip. Elsewhere, the Irish branch of the SWP have claimed the ANL stopped David Irving from speaking at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1988. Problem - the ANL wasn't relaunched in Britain till 1992, and not in Ireland till 1993! Oh, well.

INTERNATIONAL

In the past international links between anti-fascists were dominated by liberal, State-funded organisations. Over the last few years militant anti-fascists have started to develop their own networks, and AFA has played an important part in this process. AFA's International Section can be contacted at BM 1734, London, WC1N 3XX, and they have asked for international contact addresses to be passed on to help in the process of international co-ordination and co-operation. This also applies to football contacts.

BOOKSHOPS

Housmans Bookshop and Bookmarks are being sued by Mark Taha for selling Searchlight magazine (see Letters Page). This follows close on the heels of another action against them by Alexander Baron, which they were forced to settle out of court for financial reasons. A pamphlet by Baron is advertised in the BNP's Spearhead magazine, where they endorse his campaign against Searchlight and left-wing bookshops. Taha is familiar to some AFA members as a prosecution witness against Searchlight's editor and an AFA member after a clash with the League of St. George at Kensington Library in May 91. At the time Taha was noticeable by his shabby appearance and habit of talking to himself - this later developed into hitting himself repeatedly in the face on crowded tube trains - and so it was funny to see a letter from him in the Evening Standard

(6.3.96) saying how he used to watch sex films and read dirty mags but it never did him any harm!

REFERENDUM PARTY

The prospect of a Labour government sees both the Left and the Right starting to realign. The £20 million invested by Sir James Goldsmith has attracted an interesting collection of right-wingers. Among the collection of retired military officers, old NF members, and wealthy businessmen (very few women) we find John Gouriet, another ex-army officer and former leader of the ultra-right strike-breaking Freedom Association (remember Grunwicks). The involvement of influential former Tories highlights the possibility of further changes post-Labour, and the debate on the future of the Far Right is not confined to the explicitly fascist papers, with The Sunday Telegraph printing a letter from John Tyndall (3.3.96).

GREEN ANARCHIST

In the last issue of *Fighting Talk* we printed the following statement:

"Towards the end of 1995 allegations were made by Larry O'Hara that Leeds AFA was being 'run' by MI5. AFA has conducted a thorough inquiry and found there is NO EVIDENCE to support this allegation against either Leeds AFA or any individuals in it. On the other hand AFA has no intention of getting involved in the ongoing dispute between Searchlight and O'Hara and will forcefully reject any moves to drag us in. If people think they have information relevant to AFA they should approach us first rather than start shouting the odds to people who are not part of the militant anti-fascist movement. It is behaviour like this that raises questions about people's motives."

Almost before the print had dried Green Anarchist decided to reprint the original allegations and put a list of further names into the frame. They claim AFA was involved in promoting "Searchlight, MI5, and State interests." (GA. No.40-41). This was done despite objections from O'Hara. The 'AFA Statement' will not appear again.

Is this Frank Portinari (fascist and Loyalist gun-runner) pictured recently at the UVF demo in Central London?



LEVELLING THE SCORE



Claret and Blues

ASTON VILLA

Villa Fans Against Loyalty and Fascism (VFALAF) are going from strength to strength. Villa fans and AFA supporters are still meeting and amongst events being planned for next season will be a poster campaign around the ground and more stickers with a new design. Meanwhile Villa C18 are finding it increasingly difficult to find boozers to serve them their much needed Dutch courage before games. At the last count they were on their third boozers within 10 months by the end of last season. One boozers made a ruling that everyone had to have an I.D. card, leaving the fascists dismayed at having to walk a bit further for a drink (which if you have ever seen Villa C18 walk more than 10 metres it leaves you reminiscing of those classic 70's toys the 'Weebles' - but in our experience after a slap these wobble and fall down!). Inside information told us afterwards that it was only Villa C18 who were asked to have I.D. cards. At the next boozers they gave it the large - Insulting female members of staff, calling one a "Fenian bitch", not a wise thing to do, and lucky for them they were banned before the local Irish lads got hold of them. We know what boozers they are now using before games and we would like to assure them they will be seeing and hearing a lot more from V.F.A.L.A.F. early next season.

As a footnote it has come to our attention that Burke and his cronies have been travelling into town after night games looking for soft targets to slap around. They were spotted in and around the train station after the Arsenal semi-final, and on their next excursion they ran into the SWP and hospitalised two of them after the SWP had a meeting on 'How To Fight Racism'. Next season a closer watch will be put on these activities. Villa C18 will not be allowed to get a bigger foothold at Villa Park or in the City Centre. VFALAF, PO Box 3311, Birmingham, B13 0RZ.

BIRMINGHAM

At last season's 'friendly' between Birmingham and Celtic, Birmingham City's director Karen Brady condemned the actions of the Loyalty and fascists who mobilised to attack the Celtic fans. She even went so far as to wade into the crowd and snatch a Red Hand flag from a seig-heiling fascist. Despite all this, AFA has received a letter from the club's Safety Officer (!) demanding their logo is removed from the 'Blues Fans Against Loyalty and Fascism' stickers.

EURO '96 : C18 Fail to Score

According to the media Euro 96 was going to be a non-stop orgy of neo-Nazi violence. A lot of time and money was spent promoting the threat of C18, and in the build up to the Championships virtually every outbreak of trouble was reported as part of the fascist master plan. When Brighton fans protested about the future of their club the Daily Mirror claimed "neo-Nazi group Combat 18 were also involved in Saturday's shocking violence." (29.4.96). In a piece titled 'Fascists Target Euro 96', The News of the World found some dodgy plumber who revealed, "It's going to be C18 units going to do the Dutch." (24.3.96). The same paper did a 2-pager on 'Baby Faced Fuehrer To Blitz Euro 96'. This character, a German bank clerk, founded the Republikaner Party, organised the Dublin riot, and was going to turn Euro 96 into "a bloodbath" - all with a broken leg!

Once the media had made its money buying and selling shock-horror stories before the event, when the football actually started they changed tactics and played it all down. Inevitably there was some trouble, mainly of a 'traditional' nature, and it seems probable that the Trafalgar Square incident, after England

lost to Germany, was as much the fault of the police as anyone else. But if you were interested in Right-wing political activity at football forget it - nothing. No mention of the England supporters from Nottingham smashing up a pub in Kilburn on their way home (although they managed to pick one of the very few non-Irish pubs on the High Rd.); no photos of the 80-strong C18 group, complete with T-shirts, meeting up before England games in central London; no comment on the clash between anti-fascist Scottish supporters and a C18 contingent from Chelsea and Oxford.

The real point, though, is that C18 didn't manage to use Euro 96 to their advantage. It is true that the state put considerable resources into preventing trouble in and around the matches, (undoubtedly the new technology will be used against militant anti-fascists), and apart from the raids on football hooligans in places like Newcastle and London, in Oldham virtually the entire C18 unit was nicked in well publicised, stage managed dawn raids. The fact is that C18 failed to make any political impact in the grounds or away from them. They either lack ambition or ability.

FANTASY FOOTBALL

AFA was aware of C18's interest in Euro 96 and we kept a 'watching brief' on the situation. Some other groups, despite no involvement in anti-fascist work at football, jumped in feet first with predictable results. The Class War publicity seeking machine rolled into action, creating their 'Class War Hooliganz' for the media. "The European and British Nazis had better stay away if they know what's good for them" boasted Class War in the Daily Star (28.5.96), while The Guardian report was a bit

more realistic, saying even the police and the FA weren't taking Class War "seriously". You need more than a snappy sound bite to fight fascism at football - you actually have to do something! The ANL produced a leaflet - 'Don't Let The Nazis Wreck Euro 96'. Nothing to say, no strategy, just an address to send money to, but what really sums up these opportunistic outfits is this: one of the players the ANL highlight is Martin Dahlin who plays for Sweden... who didn't qualify. Sponsored by Nike or what?!

ORANGES AND LEMONS

On 27th April in a statement to the press AFA claimed responsibility for a successful attack on Loyalist/fascist elements at the White Hart pub in central London. Two weeks previously, in Bolton, a similar attempt by the English Amalgamated Apprentice Boys of Londonderry (EAABL), along with their C18 security, to march through the town centre was cancelled by Greater Manchester police following a violent confrontation between Northern Network AFA and C18 stewards. Along with the arrival of a large contingent of local asian youth the police could no longer guarantee public safety.

The scene was then set for events in London two weeks later, when AFA had discovered due to intelligence provided that the EAABL were planning to march through central London, immediately AFA leaflets were distributed calling for the march to be opposed. At a similar march organised by the EAABL the previous year C18 had provided a high-profile security team that broke away to launch an attack on a Labour party meeting being held in the area.

Following the Bolton debacle, Loyalist leaders attempted to distance themselves from C18. Derry-based Democratic Unionist Party councillor Gregory Campbell, who had been due to be the main speaker at Bolton, insisted that the event should have been allowed to go ahead and said "It is organised by the English Amalgamated Committee, which is a bona fide group within the Apprentice Boys"; though John McDowell, secretary of the Apprentice Boys in England had conceded in advance that C18 would turn up at the Bolton parade but claimed that "We would prefer not to have them along". It did not however explain how, according to media reports, 27-year-old Mark Dooley had become one of the march organisers despite the fact that amongst his convictions was one for spitting-on and intimidating a four-year-old asian girl and that a raid on his home had produced a quantity of fascist literature and stickers.

In a statement issued before the London march AFA pointed out that - "The claim by Loyalist organisers that C18 is unwelcome" on their demonstration is a sham. C18 stewarded the same march last year. Political fraternisation between the two is long established. Throughout the '80s Loyalists and fascists have

openly collaborated in violently opposing initiatives by the Irish community". AFA also made clear that "Anti-Fascist Action is a single issue organisation. It has no policy on Ireland. It is the evidence of long standing fraternisation between Loyalists and fascists, and the active participation of C18 in the event that makes it an inevitable, legitimate and inviting anti-fascist target."

On the day approximately 300 marched from Holborn to Marble Arch led by the flag of the paramilitary death-squad the Ulster Volunteer Force (legal only in 'Britain'). Representatives of Apprentice Boys branches in London, Essex, Aberdeen and Belfast attended, as did the Highfield Young Loyalist Band from Bootle, Liverpool.

Despite the attendance of a large number of fascist activists on the day, Loyalists once again attempted to distance themselves from them after the attack by AFA members on the White Hart Pub, where casualties included members of Glasgow's Pride of Govan band. William Moore, general secretary of the Apprentice Boys of Derry, told the media "We are here today as British citizens marching in a British city. Our loyalty is to the Crown and this event is an expression of our faith in and loyalty to the British throne. I think these people [counter-demonstrators] do not understand what we are about. This organisation is not racially biased and we welcome anyone into our ranks. They only have to say they are a Protestant and support the British monarchy." Another 'Boys' member who declined to be named said the attack on them was "deplorable" and insisted that fascists "are not welcome anywhere near us. We've come here to the capital for a day out and don't want any trouble".

However, once again, the hard evidence suggests otherwise. Intelligence photos clearly identify leading members of C18 mixing freely with Loyalist marchers, especially members of the Highfield Young Loyalist Band from Bootle, Liverpool who were among 500 Liverpool Loyalists who broke away from the Orange Order in 1987 when Liverpool Provincial Grand Master Ron Bather banned them from carrying UVF standards on Orange parades.

The Orange Order and their fellow Loyalists may wish to reflect on a situation



Fascists at the UVF demo in Bolton: "Not welcome anywhere near us?"

that has seen one of their marches stopped and another where their members were attacked in the last few months. Clearly, few AFA members would have any sympathy for the members of what is essentially a reactionary, sectarian, pro-imperialist and ultimately anti-working class organisation; however the decision by AFA to take a 'pro-active' position on this issue should be seen in parallel to the growing profile of fascist elements at Loyalist events in England and Scotland. As AFA stated after the events of 27.4.96. "(AFA) makes no apology for the events at the White Hart Pub. Loyalist/fascist fraternisation is long established and all denials are a sham. AFA has proved again that for the fascists and their fellow travellers in London there is no place to run and no place to hide".

The history of collusion between the two is long established. The Manchester Martyrs Commemoration was an annual target for Liverpool Loyalists and fascist groups. The active involvement of the former ended dramatically, when seven leading members of the Liverpool branch of the extreme Independent Loyal Orange Lodge (other members include the aforementioned Highfield YL band) were hospitalised following an encounter with AFA stewards in the Rusholme area of Manchester in 1989. A year earlier in 1988, a joint UDA/BNP operation to attack a public meeting at Conway Hall featuring Bernadette McAliskey was foiled by an AFA ambush. Prominent fascists including Derek Beackon and Richard Edmonds were identified as casualties in a number of Loyalist magazines. In 1993

police were forced to arrest hundreds of Loyalists and fascists on the Edgware Road in order to prevent them attacking a Troops Out demonstration. The same combination attacked and successfully turned back an apolitical Irish march in Liverpool on St. Patrick's Day this year. A number of people were injured.

A number of fascists have taken a more 'hands-on' approach to their support for the Loyalist cause with a steady stream of them being jailed for their involvement with the paramilitaries. Frank Portinari, Terry Blackham and Steve Martin, to name but a few, have been jailed for arms offences, Eddy Whicker has been heavily implicated and C18 leader Charlie Sargent boasts of his friendship with Johnny 'Mad Dog' Adair, sentenced last year to 16 years for organising Loyalist death-squads. Bands from the fascist 'Blood and Honour' music scene have long associated themselves with the Loyalist cause, playing benefit gigs for the UDA and releasing pro-Loyalist records.

At football, loyalism has replaced racism as the main touchstone of fascist influence amongst those going to the games and running with the firms. With players like Ian Wright, Ruud Gullit and Les Ferdinand the modern day heroes of the kids in the grounds and many of the big 'firms' gaining black members during the '80s racism was not such a viable option. Instead it was a lot easier to draw support from those at football by promoting the 'heroics' of the Loyalist paramilitaries, 'taking out IRA murderers', against the background of a renewed Republican bombing campaign in Britain, than it was to promote the likes of John Tyndall with

his plummy voice and tendency to dress-up in short leather trousers! The success of this tactic was demonstrated in spectacular fashion at Lansdowne Road at the Republic of Ireland v England fixture.

Despite the evidence, there are still those from the Left whose own particular brand of politics lead them into some strange situations. Members of Militant were also out on the day of the EAABL march, presumably looking for fascist targets, however, following the logic of their politics they could just have been as likely to be looking to join the march! Ridiculous? Well, let us explain.

Militant are at present conducting a political love affair with the Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), the political wing of the Loyalist death-squad the UVF, responsible for some of the worst atrocities over the past 25 years in Ireland; their main victims being anyone who happened to be a Catholic/Nationalist. The PUP say they have been formed to represent the interests of ordinary working class Protestants/Loyalists, in response to the main Loyalist parties whom they say are happy to use the threat of Loyalist paramilitary violence when it suits them while at the same time condemning the UVF/UFF and applauding when they are sent to jail. They have also through their main spokesmen David Irvine and Billy Hutchinson, consistently used 'socialist' rhetoric when interviewed.

"It is the evidence of long standing fraternisation between Loyalists and fascists, and the active participation of C18 in the event that makes it an inevitable, legitimate and inviting anti-fascist target."

It is this rhetoric that has led Militant to invite PUP spokesmen to share public platforms with them and be given sympathetic coverage in the Militant newspaper. This led to an interesting confrontation at a Militant public meeting in Ayrshire recently, where the main speaker was none other than Tommy Sheridan. At the meeting a supporter of the TAL fanzine asked Tommy how wide his definition of socialism went. For example, did it stretch as far as to include the UVF's political wing, the PUP who had been provided platforms? Tommy's reply was interesting: "Yes", he said, "The PUP are a very co-operative and progressive party!" When our friend pointed out the role of the UVF in the British sponsored death squads, Sheridan accused him of being a bigot and "...obviously biased against the protestant working class". Our friend replied, "How can that be Tommy, because I am a protestant myself -?!"

At the moment the PUP's politics has consisted of little more than rhetoric and the silence of the Loyalist guns. Are they socialists? Well, the only proof we have so far that they are is because they say they are. Their colleagues in the UVF have already issued bomb scares against Dublin and have promised that any move away from the Union with Britain will be met with a resumption of a campaign of mass murder.

For the time being at least, the agenda of PUP/UVF - even at it's most 'progressive' - appears to be much the same as that of everyone from the British Government to MI5 to the BNP, namely the maintenance of the sectarian statelet of 'Northern Ireland' by force of arms if need be. Hence, it is not as ridiculous as it might seem to find Militant stewards in the position described earlier: after all Militant share platforms with the PUP whose armed wing is the UVF whose supporters march in England under the protection of Combat 18. Militant would do well to remember, as everyone knows in the '90s, you really do have to be careful with whom you get into bed with nowadays!



UVF supporters and fascists parade through London, 28th April 1996.

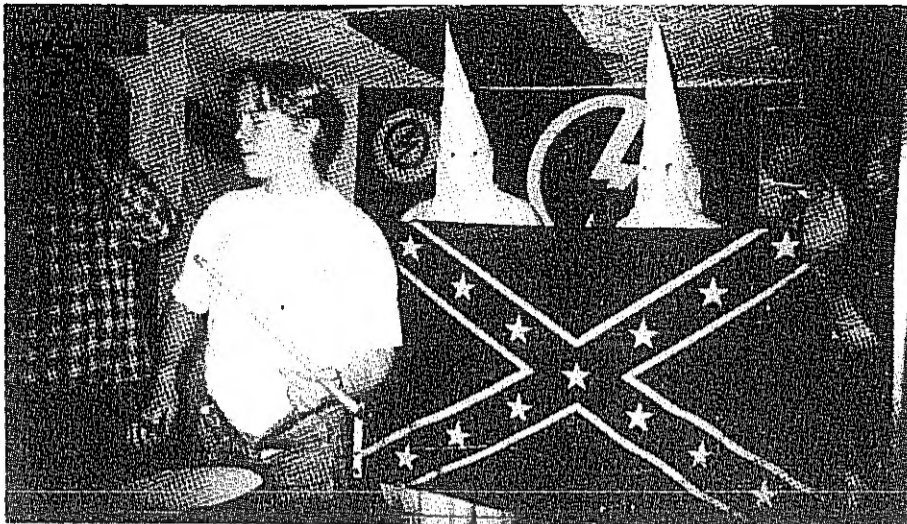
A VIEW FROM VALHALLA



Special agent Dan Woinsaker files another exclusive report on the Blood and Honour/C18 axis. Using brand new security measures, and at great personal risk (or so he says), a coded report 'arrived' at the FT newsdesk. Unfortunately no one could decipher the code so we had to do it all over the phone anyway. In this issue Dan W. considers the power struggle between Resistance (U.S.A.) and B&H (U.K.), was shocked when the BM "came out of the closet" and almost fainted when he saw the pictures of grown men in sheets...

Obviously feeling under pressure from the expensively produced Resistance magazine, Blood and Honour (B&H) has now expanded to a 28 page magazine with a full colour glossy cover. While the editorial rants in general terms about the need for unity (and the usual slagging off of ex-B&H boss Paul Burnley) there are obvious references to the defection of English Rose and Squadron - "no one will ever split our ranks again no matter how many lies are spread". Both these bands had risen to positions of prominence in the B&H scene (well, let's face it, there wasn't much competition) and this latest setback has clearly rattled B&H. Further into the magazine they declare that "for the past year Brad of Squadron has been in contact with Special Branch, and we suspect he has been passing information on people within the movement."

Despite B&H responding to the threat posed by Resistance, the American based outfit seem determined to spread their influence. The editor of Resistance, George Burdi (a.k.a. George Eric Hawthorne) is also the leader of the band Rahowa, and articles and interviews with them appear in most of the European fascist music magazines. A recent issue of Resistance carries an interview with English Rose and in the introduction Resistance refers to the B&H/C18 attempt for complete control "... despite the presence of a certain English label that wanted to control all of the music released in the UK, English Rose have decided to brave the stormy seas on their own this decision has proven the wisest for them ...". English Rose frontman, Jonesy, goes on to explain the main problem,



The Ku Klux Klan making an appearance at a Blood and Honour gig in Belfast.

"Lack of unity. At the moment English Rose don't seem to be the flavour of the month (along with our friends Squadron), so once again the 'rumour machine' is working overtime and the unity is shattered." Resistance's closing words to the interview are "BLOOD without HONOUR is nothing!" A little dig, perhaps!

Talking of Jonesy, he also produces Rampage, a small pro-Nazi skinhead fanzine, but at the moment he obviously doesn't have the bottle to tackle B&H/C18 head on. Still, having a magazine even with only a small worldwide distribution could be a useful weapon in the future. Rampage has been promoting the British Hammerskins, another fascist skinhead group. The Hammerskins started in the USA but have now spread to other countries, including: Canada, Italy, Switzerland, Slovakia, Bohemia, Germany, France, and Britain. The British Hammerskins consider themselves part of the B&H scene but in other countries there have been problems between B&H skins and Hammerskins. The relevance of these various small fascist groups remains to be seen, but they keep cropping up. The British Knights of the Ku Klux Klan have been distributing some very uninteresting literature recently, and made a guest appearance at the B&H gig in Belfast last Christmas. The BKKKK (snappy, huh!) are aligned to the National Socialist Alliance.

As I've pointed out English Rose and the Rampage fanzine are linked and operate from the same address in Leicestershire, while Chingford Attack, a totally pro-C18 band, use the B&H address in London. Warlord, Stigger's (ex-Skrewdriver) new band, operate from British Oi's address in Derby. British Oi! is another B&H/C18 magazine which is run by Chris Hipkin, an active fascist in the area. As is usual nowadays, British Oi! have done a lengthy interview with George Burdi of Resistance Records and Rahowa. It is a predictably pompous piece all about Nietzsche and eternal truths (just because you went to university, George...) but Burdi's closing quote caught my eye - "In times of peace the militant man attacks himself." Well, let's hope so. The other point of interest in this interview is that Burdi doesn't endorse B&H, in fact he plugs the Hammerskins. Whether this has anything to do with B&H USA changing its address, and has now, I hear, been taken over by Resistance, remains to be seen?

A number of old punk and Oi bands are still playing (or have recently reformed) and small C18/B&H contingents have been spotted at several of their gigs recently (UK Subs and Peter & The Test Tube Babies in London, for example). I even heard a rumour that two versions of the 4-skins may re-form - one of them allied to

B&H. Anti-fascists need to get on the case. Talking of bands, one band I doubt we'll hear from again is the Swedish nazi outfit Steelcapped Strength, because the bass player had a fight with the drummer and killed him.

The C18 monthly newsletter Putsch has now finished, the stated reason being that after nearly 3 years they have identified the key people they need to build the National Socialist elite. In the last issue they slag off the British Movement, which previously had been presented as one of the small groups that had joined the NSA. To quote, "The British Movement recently came out of the closet after 15 years. Alas not to go against the reds, but to put on a social for treacherous bands that have been thrown out of Blood and Honour! The lure of a few shekels seems to of been given precedence over any ideological motivation by the BM. It is no secret how Squadron and English Rose have cheated and stole from B&H, as Paul Burnley did before."

C18 have played a key role in developing links with Ulster Loyalists. There are those who would suggest that if the Loyalists didn't have links with overt National Socialists there wouldn't be a problem. This is not true, Ulster Loyalism is a totally reactionary movement with fascist tendencies, and there is plenty of evidence to support this. Besides, if the Loyalists are so 'anti-fascist', consider the following. This letter appeared in the latest B&H: "Greetings B&H, Just a quick letter to let you all know, that we the Loyalist prisoners on East Belfast UDA wing H-Block 2, are dedicated to keeping Ulster

British & white. Keep up the great work and give our best wishes to all those on the mainland who have given us such great support over the past few years. I enclose a photo of me on the Wings. (see picture below). Hail the UFF & C18. (signed) L.P.O.W." The UDA/UFF magazine 'Warrior', widely available on the C18/B&H scene, includes greetings to the Serbian fascist paramilitary group The White Eagles and refers to a leading Sinn Fein member, Lucilita Bhreatnach, as a "bastard half-caste".



Odin's Lodge, based in Grimsby, are one of the main Mail Order services operating on the Far Right, and sell a range of merchandise that includes "Klan, National Socialist, Odinit, skinhead, and Loyalist." They travel to the north of Ireland regularly and are actively involved in promoting B&H over there. Most of the British B&H bands have written songs in support of the Loyalist Death Squads (eg. 'UFF' by Razors Edge, 'Smash The

IRA' by Skrewdriver) and it was noticeable that Stigger, an influential figure in B&H circles, was present at the recent attempted Loyalist march in Bolton. In the latest issue of The Order, another C18 magazine, there is a letter from a Loyalist prisoner in the H-Blocks, and underneath is an advertisement for Loyalist Prisoners Aid which operates from a box in Thornton Heath, which, coincidentally, is not a million miles away from the home of Eddy Whicker, former NF member and active Loyalist.

In America the music on the 'white power' scene is more varied than here, and there is a strange specimen called Eric Owens who plays 'racist folk music' with a strong traditional Irish influence. He claims to be influenced by Irish musicians like Planxty, The Dubliners, and Altan, and to play sessions with Irish musicians. Its bad enough that the fascists have tried to claim a lot of Celtic symbols and culture as their own, but now they want the music. Once again, time for action.

And finally, staying with issues American, I couldn't resist this little gem from the National Socialist Vanguard. Reporting on the Aryan Nations rally in Idaho last year, it reminds readers "pets should not be brought to the gatherings" because Heidi, Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler's pet Doberman, was killed by two visiting Rottweilers, and to make matters worse "Vaughn, the ageing German Shepherd dog, also a pet, who was given a brief mention in the book 'The Silent Brotherhood' (about The Order), attacked a truck. Vaughn lost the fight and the local vet was unable to save the dog." All together now, aaahhhh



Blood and Honour's Stigger (ex-Skrewdriver) pictured (above left) playing a B&H gig and (above right) looking a little bemused during the C18/Loyalist Bolton fiasco.

STRATEGIC ATTACK INITIATIVE



In the last issue we printed an in-depth look at the growth of White Power music in the USA and Canada. Here we look at some examples of how anti-fascists in North America have responded to developments on the Far Right and the Canadian Antifa Forum suggest a way forward for the future.

The anti-fascist struggle in North America is still in its formative stages, but it has come a long way in a relatively short span of time. The following selections document some of the experiences from various militant initiatives.

Taking The Fight To The Fascists In Toronto

Over 300 anti-racists gathered at a downtown community centre. Literature that had been distributed prior to the demonstration (called by Anti-Racist Action) hinted that the house of Ernst Zundel, Holocaust-revisionist, neo-Nazi and publisher and international distributor of fascist literature, was to be the target of the protest. This was a diversion. While dozens of fascist skinheads and Heritage Front/Church of the Creator leaders and members were waiting outside Zundel's house, anti-racists were heading to the home of Gary Schipper, a top organizer within the HF. Schipper's home is an HF operational base where he records messages for their hotline which is used as an organizing and recruiting tool. When demonstrators reached his house, people began to pelt it with eggs and paint bombs and then several militant activists proceeded to smash the windows and doors in with rocks and clubs as well as throwing smoke bombs inside. Militants were very clear about the target and no neighbourhood residents were injured nor their houses damaged. The police, like the fascists, had expected the target of the demo to be Zundel's house and they were caught short-handed with only 6 cops on hand when the attack began. Later that night, 40-50 revenge-seeking fascists attacked a group of anti-racists outside a downtown club. Despite having a 2-to-1 advantage, a number of fascists were severely beaten by anti-racists in a wild street brawl while other Nazis ran away in fear.

(from a statement by Arm The Spirit, Toronto)

Vancouver Anti-fascists Storm Fascist Attempts To Rally

Fascists in Western Canada were sent running for the hills on the night of January 22, 1993. The Canadian Liberty Net made it known that they were going to hold a rally in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery, featuring American neo-Nazi youth-organizer Tom Metzger. The fascists' intended site was occupied by 3,000 anti-racist demonstrators on the night. Metzger ended up not being able to attend the proposed rally and instead featured as a tape-recording at what soon became a redirection point for the fascists!



As the initial demonstration was beginning to wind down, word travelled through the crowd that fascist skinheads had been sighted at the Century Plaza Hotel. Hundreds split from the mobilisation and took to the streets to confront the enemy. As the 500 marchers approached the hotel, a handful of fascists cowered in a side alley. Anti-fascists gave chase as the neo-Nazis "jumped walls, scrambled over fences and fled into the darkness". The angry demonstration was met face-to-face with a line of riot police at the entrance to the hotel.

(from Anti-Fascist Info report)

Autumn In Montreal

Jean-Yves Le Gallou, a high ranking member of France's Front Nationale and chief of that group's overseas support network was in Canada this September [1993], accompanied by other FN deputies. The three were attending the Metropolis conference in Montreal, a get-together for mayors and municipal politicians from large cities throughout the world. Le Gallou was also meant to

attend a meeting organized to bring together the diverse factions of the Far Right in Quebec, as well as fascists from English Canada. During the month and a half preceding the Metropolis event an anti-racist coalition had formed in Montreal, largely at the initiative of the Canadian Centre on Racism and Prejudice. Over forty Left and community groups ended up joining the coalition, representing various Trotskyist factions, libertarian socialist and anarchist tendencies, as well as several other different Montreal communities.

The FN delegates were met at the airport by twenty anti-racists who surrounded them while chanting slogans. No one tried anything more militant, though, and the airport security had been told to keep their cool. Later that evening was when the Far Right meeting was supposed to take place, at the Louis XV restaurant. Well over a thousand anti-nazis showed up. Anti-Racist Action from Toronto and Ottawa mobilized in large numbers. The demo was a great success - the fascists had to cancel their meeting and the Louis XV got several of its windows smashed. Unfortunately, there was some knee-jerk pacifism on the part of some of the demo organizers, but all in all the evening was quite inspiring (although some Communist League - the Canadian affiliate of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party - members acted revoltingly like peace cops in their lets-link-arms-and-isolate-the-militants" behaviour).

(from an independent report)

Berkeley Anti-Fascists Give Holocaust-Denier The Boot

On October 13, 1994 two-hundred anti-fascists gathered in Berkeley, California to disrupt a speech by British Holocaust-denier David Irving. Irving was scheduled to give a lecture at the University of California, which was secretly moved to the YWCA due to protesters already present. Scouts quickly determined the new location and informed the crowd, which then moved en masse to the YWCA. Finding no police present, protesters stormed the hall, a scuffle ensued and Irving's literature table was overturned. A box of video tapes, "The Death of the 'Holocaust' Legend Begins" was smashed with great enthusiasm.

The police eventually arrived, driving the anti-fascists from the building. By this time, most of the people who had come to hear Irving speak had gotten cold feet and left. After several more disruptions, Irving was able to give his speech to a greatly diminished audience and only under the armed protection of dozens of police. Although we were not able to prevent the lecture from taking place, we did seriously disrupt it, chasing away many

would-be supporters and destroying a lot of his racist propaganda. To have let this event go unhindered would imply our complicity in allowing the worldwide neo-Nazi movement to grow.
(statement from Infoshop Berkeley)

Fascist Concert Cancelled in St. Paul

Members of Anti-Racist Action [Minneapolis] were tipped-off about the show [May 20, 1995] and began organizing against it immediately. (The fascists) discreetly distributed fliers telling fellow white supremacists to meet at Mounds Park in St. Paul between noon and 6pm to pick up tickets and a map to the hall where the gig [featuring Bound For Glory] would take place.

Anti-racist activists got hold of the flier, obtained a permit to use Mounds Park on May 20, and held an anti-racist picnic all day in order to occupy the place where the gig organizers wanted to hand out their maps. When carloads of nazis showed up from all over the Midwest, thinking they would get a map and tickets to their rally, they were met by a crowd of 100 anti-racists led by a "baseball team" who quickly disinvited from the park any nazis who showed up.

We arrived at the hall at 7pm. to find over 200 angry community members already there. By the time 30 nazi skinheads entered the club to set up their equipment, almost 400 activists and neighbours were jeering them. After a couple of hours, the mayor of St. Paul came (along with 75

riot cops) and told the police to shut the show down. The nazis were hustled into a police wagon and escaped through a back alley. All in all, the day was a complete success. Many nazis from around the country couldn't get maps to the show, and only the bands and their roadies managed to enter the hall before the gig got cancelled.

(from The Blast! newspaper)

A number of militant initiatives have delivered significant tactical and political victories over the fascists, despite increasing criminalisation and the contradictions which inevitably arise when working within conservative Left coalitions. In many arenas, the activity and organizing attempts of the fascists have been effectively beaten back. However, once this has been accomplished, the anti-racist Left traditionally call it a day and opt for laying in wait for the next big reason for mobilizing to come around the corner. The biggest stumbling block now has yet to be cleared as many anti-fascists attempt to adapt their programme to the next phase of conditions. Today we are experiencing an overwhelming growth in public support for right-wing opinion, which has been building up throughout recent history in reaction to bankrupt government policies on the complex issues of race, fired up by the quick-fix reactionary 'solutions' of the Extreme Right. This has paved the way for further manipulation of racist sentiments within the white working class by reactionary and fascist elements. The Militia movement has been one of the larger symptoms of the overall problem and are seen by the fascists as the best vehicle by which to forward their agendas. Anti-fascists need to support the maintenance of radical Left influence in the areas they beat the fascists in and see to it that the bankrupt 'solutions' of fascism fail to gain a foothold again.

The John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, which used to be active in the US throughout the 80s, did a great deal of solid work to combat racism and fascism physically and ideologically. They were the closest thing to nationally-organised

structures in North America, although it would probably be more accurate to describe them as having regional concentrations. Some of the largest manifestations against white supremacist activity over the past ten years has come from the Black community. And of course some of the small Marxist-Leninist parties emphasise anti-fascist work, albeit as a side show and usually in attempts to build their party structures. Without a doubt, liberalism has been the main road block for the otherwise natural progression of militant anti-fascism; this being especially problematic due to countless well-funded liberal organisations who maintain an anti-racism 'industry' complete with paid staff, public offices, and lobby groups. They foster the idea that tightening up on state law enforcement is the way to defeat so-called 'hate groups'. In effect, many so-called 'radical' anti-racist organisations end up fighting racism for the status quo, which has to date been successful in serving their own short-term interests only. Unsurprisingly, class issues and politics are absent. The role the state plays in relation to fascist activity is also ignored. Many anti-racist groups still insist on working with the police to supposedly forward the agenda against organised fascism.

The ARA-net, a loose network of Anti-Racist Action groups throughout North America, currently holds the greatest potential for militant anti-fascist action, but there exists alongside the militant strands, tendencies of liberalism exhibited by many of the participants. These tendencies are increasingly comparable in their policies to Britain's ANL and YRE who for whatever intentions, only make matters worse for the militant players on the ground. Militant anti-fascists have yet to consolidate their own organised structures. It has been the largely isolated militant elements lumped within coalitions and organisations with diverse make-ups which have carried the can on the day in the streets. A great deal of today's anti-fascist militancy is as of yet unorganised and doesn't come directly from the left-wing groups but from mostly unpoliticized youth - anti-racist skinheads, Black and Latino youth, etc. - who simply have a good working knowledge of who their enemies are and how best to effectively deal with them. The task for militant anti-fascists now is to get ourselves more self-organised. In doing so, we will be able to build upon our own experiences and provide support for broader long-term struggles.

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THE NATURE OF THE BEAST



In the last issue of *Fighting Talk*, Sid Martell discussed the way the abstract concept of nation, as we know it today, forms the bulwark of any 'fascist ideology'. In this issue, he develops into the ways in which fascism manifests itself, and argues that fascism's most distinguishing hallmark is its anti-working class agenda.

The term 'fascist' often gets misused. Various people, organisations and States have been described using the label 'fascist', sometimes rightly but often wrongly - simply a term of abuse to describe their 'likeness' to fascism. Margaret Thatcher is an example: however much we might like to see a resemblance to Adolf Hitler (demagogic, xenophobic and anti-working class tendencies, fondness for invasions, moustache), she was not - in a strict sense - a fascist. So is there a problem in describing her as a fascist? Is it not just an easy label we can throw at people who fall into the caricature, from the person telling a racist joke, to the landlord who won't serve a late drink? In a comic sense there isn't a problem. In a realistic sense there is. Anti-Fascist Action as an organisation must be clear on what it means by 'fascist', because there is a need to discriminate who we are taking action against.

The term originated in Italy in the 1920's, with Mussolini's outfit taking on the name 'fascisti'. Since then, it has been used to describe any movement that matched, in its overall form, the Italian model. This is specifically why we use the term anti-fascist rather than anti-nazi: the term 'nazi' is applicable directly to the German National Socialist movement, pre-World War II, the term 'fascist' embraces all the

scumbags up to the present day. But the word 'form' used above itself needs to be qualified. One of the things that characterised the fascist movements both of Italy and Germany, for instance, was the wearing of uniforms. But this was more to do with the specific nature of their time, uniforms in themselves are not 'fascistic' - the Salvation Army, although an interesting group to consider - are not fascists. What is meant by form is a similar ideological make-up, along with a specific practical agenda, which can be recognised as fascist.

In the last issue it was discussed how the idea of nation was the ideological mainstay of any fascist movement. The practical agenda is the liquidation of radical working-class opposition to capitalism. This is a direct summary though, and the



Antonio Primo de Rivera, the leader of the Spanish Falange.

complications that exist in and around the argument are worth looking into. One of them being: is this indistinguishable from a straight forward reactionary establishment agenda? We can argue that it is a question of degree, and there is a blurring of the edges on both sides. What is obvious is that they are both dogs bred of the same bitch. But where as one is more often than not able to use its bark to maintain its position, the other has rabies. The establishment will quite easily contract the disease if it feels the need, a military coup results in the same net effect as a fascist movement gaining power - for the radical working class that is.

In Chile, when General Pinochet took power, and filled football stadiums with dead bodies, he did so to smash working class opposition, and preserve the Chilean 'nation'. It is a worthless argument to suggest that Pinochet was not a fascist because "he didn't come to power in the same way as Hitler". Leon Trotsky, in his essay "Fascism - What is it?", makes this mistake when talking of the pre-civil war 'Primo de Rivera' dictatorship in Spain:

"Primo de Rivera was an aristocrat. He occupied a high military and bureaucratic post and was chief governor of Catalonia. He accomplished his overthrow with the aid of state and military forces. The dictatorships of Spain and Italy are two totally different forms of dictatorship. It is necessary to distinguish between them. Mussolini

had difficulty in reconciling many old institutions with the fascist militia. This problem did not exist for Primo de Rivera."

The similarities though are much more conclusive, both set out to preserve their respective 'nations' by smashing the working class, Primo de Rivera just didn't do as well (even though he'd managed to reconcile the military). Interestingly enough, he did give the world a son, Antonio Primo de Rivera, who went on to lead the Falangist movement, with whose help a certain General Franco did a little better.

A rampant reactionary government and fascism once in power, are one and the same thing in the eyes of the working class. They are the people who will feel the full despair of the worst excesses of bourgeois conservatism run riot, whether or not it came about through means of a mass movement or a military coup. Considering the German or Italian examples, we can see that in order to take power, both Hitler and Mussolini - despite the 'radical' rhetoric - had to accommodate the interests of established capital. This was all done easily enough, a nod and a wink in Hitler's case saw the elimination of the elements in his own movement who had actually *believed* in some kind of radical agenda. It was an easy accommodation - the people in economic power stayed in place, and the fascists liquidated the opposition. Faced with the threat of a revolutionary working class, the men with the money were quite happy to give the fascists a leg up to power. For them, fascism had done its job extremely well: dividing the working class and muddying the waters in the first instance, and then being invited to finish what they had started in the second.

The added advantage was that the ruling class could 'wash its hands' of the whole messy business: "Nothing to do with me guv - Speak to Mr. Hitler". If it was not for the fascists, the establishment would have had to use the army, and this has unpredictable results. In Spain, where the fascist movement was relatively small, the establishment had to get the generals involved, which split the army down the middle, and could have gone either way. In Germany and Italy, all the preparatory work had been done by the fascists: it had driven a wedge into the working class and had already shown itself willing and capable of taking on the

revolutionaries. The bourgeoisie simply let them get on with it - without even having to cancel dinner. It is the stage before power that we should consider when we are dealing with the question of fascism: once we are living under a fascist regime, whether it describes itself as such or not, there won't be a lot of room for manoeuvre on the way to the gas chambers.

What is clear, is that a fascism of any sort can only come to fruition while the radical section of the working class is weak: a fascist mass movement will only exist if the radical working class is not prepared to smash it, and strong enough to do so. Likewise, the establishment will only make the direct leap to fascism itself if the working class reaches the stage where it threatens the formers hold on power. Either way it is revolutionary weakness in the face of the class enemy which gives the latter their strength.

In the position that we face in this country, and probably in the rest of what is termed as 'the West', the immediate threat to the working class is from the 'mass movement' brand of fascism. This is because whilst the 'Left' might be weak, this does not leave capitalism any less than the bankrupt and crude absurdity that it is. Ordinary working class people, despite what the middle class Left patronisingly term as their 'lack of consciousness', are awake enough to

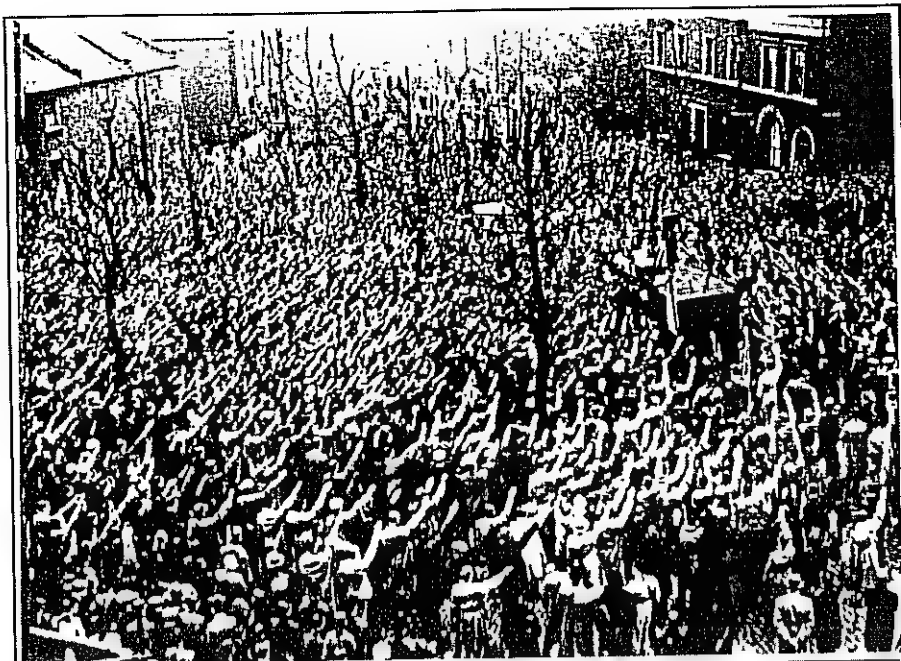
know that they are living in day to day crisis conditions. Someone will provide an answer if it isn't the radical working class itself. That someone can easily end up being the fascist movement.

We can define that movement in straight forward terms: a fifth column built within the working class. They will be working fundamentally against the interests of that class, and working with open force to replace class struggle politics, with 'nationalist' ones. They will use the kind of jingoism and irrationalism already inbuilt into this society - to sustain its fundamental myths - to smash the only opposition really capable of changing it. Just in terms of nationalism, the potential is enormous, the Euro '96 euphoria is a recent example - with the likes of TFI Friday presenter and Radio 1 DJ Chris Evans describing how the country "just felt different". Working class supporters taking to the streets afterwards, to smash a few VWs and wave the flag, is not a problem for anti-fascists in itself - the problem will be the people in their midst telling them that the "Jewish Establishment-backed" police force should have let them have a good time (and our recognition that the only reason the coppers attacked them was because they might take their euphoria to the 'restaurant district').

The example reveals where the possibilities lay for fascism, and the



Victims of government sponsored death squads in El Salvador.



Fascist street meeting in Bermondsey, 1938.

reasons why the fascists are able to operate amongst ordinary people. Both the euphoria and the discontent are mirrors to bigger things - people are led to believe that there is something great and good about this country, but then there are the penalties. The fascists recognise the discontent and the anger, they present themselves as 'anti-establishment', they identify themselves with genuine working class concerns: the BNP got a council seat on the Isle of Dogs primarily because they campaigned on the issue of housing. At the same time the 'solutions' they offer, are closely bound up with the ignorance and irrationalism which helps to hold the current capitalist system together. So unlike the Left - who have the often difficult task of exposing those myths and pointing out to people the lies that they're swallowing - the fascists can use what is already in place in terms of ideology, as well as the discontent of the working class.

This balancing act is also their weakness, as too much emphasis on class issues inevitably causes ideological confusion. If you read some of C18's meandering propaganda you can deduce that one of the main reasons for the fall-out with the BNP is that Tyndall was, and remains, a pompous middle-class windbag. The working class element that is cultivated for street activity and a certain necessary class identity will always be somewhat wayward, because of a natural aversion to the reactionary middle class types who will inevitably be running the show. It was a development of this kind of problem in the past which led to what calls itself the "Third Positionist" current of the fascist movement. This was an attempt to repackage fascism in a more

radical and class orientated framework, and is a spin-off of Strasserism, a current within the Brownshirt wing of the German Nazi party. Needless to say, all this is immediately dispensed with, once the time is right - the Strasserites were murdered in what is historically termed as "The Night of the Long-Knives". Class politics and fascism are totally incompatible, as fascism only tries to eradicate the 'idea' of class distinction, while leaving the determining economic factors firmly in place.

It is when the fascists do manage to maintain the balance, and gain a base within the working class, that they are their most dangerous. This is because the progressive movement is left fighting on two fronts - capitalism on the one hand, and the fascists on the other. As AFA has often stated, not only does this provide us with a new enemy, that enemy is entrenched in our own camp, and draining our resources. This in the past has been the deciding factor, and as we have seen, can very easily be fatal. This is why any militant anti-fascism must be

class based. Wrapping anti-fascism up in high blown morals and wringing our hands over the atrocities of the fascists will not do the job because it is not dealing with the fundamentals. Alliances with 'liberal' elements of the bourgeoisie, entreating the State to deal with fascism, are not just a bad idea - misguided efforts like these can end up giving credibility to the fascists in the place where it matters most: amongst the white working class. While we must condemn the racist attacks and the victimisation, we must also recognise that the racism is there anyway, all the fascists are doing is using it.

When we use the term fascist, what we are essentially talking about are ultra-conservatives who are willing to use open force against the working class, both inside and outside of power. The fact that working class people are attracted to fascism, when this is the case, is contradictory but understandable. For much the same reasons as the working class just doesn't up and overthrow the State. Much of the responsibility lies with the Left. The fascists, despite their ideology and misgivings, are prepared to go into working class areas and make their presence felt. The Left, on the other hand, have spent years seemingly expecting the working class to come to them, only to find the masses moving in the opposite direction.

Fascism is a manifestation of the struggle between rich and poor. Only when there is a decisive victory in the poor's favour will we see an end to the fascist menace. In the mean time, it is crucial for us to oppose their growth. This is not just because they are nasty and violent, racist and reactionary etc. The main factor for us is that they are out to win the hearts and minds of our constituency, and it has to be in our interests and those of our class that the challenge is met. What they promote is class treachery, the only thing that squarely beats them is working class unity. Only when they are too terrified to work in the estates and walk the streets can anti-fascists be satisfied.

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BEHIND ENEMY LINES



FT's Bill Gothrocks hasn't been getting any lately. But he has been reading about it a lot. Do they mean sex? Of course they do...

Something along the lines of a debate has been going on in recent issues of *Spearhead*, on the question of gender. I say "something along the lines" as the word debate implies some kind of rational argument. A person called Ellen Strachan starts the ball rolling in the May '96 issue of Tyndall's organ. In an article entitled "The Meaning of Marriage" she explains that marriage is about making more white people, and if it isn't then it bloody well should be. For "If marriage is about nothing more than attraction or affection, then it does not matter who or what is married." So it follows that:

"You might just as well marry someone of the same gender as yourself, or an animal, or an inflatable doll or a motorcycle. It would be no more than a personal indulgence."

Obviously, we can only say to any affectionate or loving readers - don't try this at home - motorcycle exhausts generate extreme heat. But what of the marriage ceremony itself? How should White Racial Nationalists celebrate their union? We are advised to look back no further than Germany, sometime around 100 AD, when the procedure went as follows:

"The dowry was given by the husband's family to his wife. The extended family attended the marriage and gave their approval of the gifts, which were all chosen for their symbolism and practical nature, rather than the sort of things which would 'please a woman's whim or gaily deck a young bride'. Typical gifts were: oxen, horse with reins, shield, spear and sword."

So what the modern day fascist male will need to secure the whitest woman with the best child bearing hips are: a couple of mad cows, a Triumph 900 Speed Triple - with straps, and a can of CS gas. But wait, in the same issue, Nick Griffin suggests you need something much bigger to impress the girls, insisting that

*"...we must indeed be able to bring home a mammoth to the tribal cave." This is working on 'the proviso that white men are essentially 'hunters', and in place of the 'New Man' Griffin wants to see a restoration of the Cave Man. But then up pops 'Australian author', Nigel Jackson, in the June issue of *Spearhead*, to contradict him, saying Griffin is:*

"...wrong to claim that 'there is very little difference between a small payslip and a large chunk of mammoth'. You have to be a warrior to get the mammoth."

We can only thank our antipodean cousin for bringing a note of clarity back into the situation. He also takes issue with the aforementioned Ms. Strachan, but only on the basis that while its right to insist that marriage should only mean lots more little Aryans, there's nothing wrong with a bit on the side is there? (He says the French have got it sussed apparently). But most of his 'venom' is reserved for Griffin. He just can't understand why 'Old Nick' wants to see:

"...drums and torchlit bonfires on private land, for example - with which to reach into the subconscious."

Our Nigel just writes this off as the kind of KKK male-bonding stuff that gives nationalism a bad name. I don't know about that, maybe Nick was thinking more along the lines of the 'goats and virgins', 'Epping Forest' kind of thing - after all, there's nothing like a little pagan idolatry to wash down your chunk of mammoth.

It's amazing what an 'Australian author' will write to get published. In the same article Jackson argues that if we want to talk about real men, if we want to talk about the Olympian ideal, then we need look no further than the great man himself, John Tyndall. You don't believe me, you're saying to yourself "this Bill Gothrocks bloke is a bit of a nutter". You're probably right, but the following is in print. If we're going to talk about Big John then:

"...the answer in a single word is manliness..."

"...Tyndall is essentially a fighter. This means that the BNP is particularly well suited to give a lead in finding ways to enable more and more British men to be men."

Now after all this macho talk, I started to come over all masculine. Luckily enough, my mate Dan Woinsaiker noticed my distress, and began fanning me with the latest issue of *Valkyrie Voice*. After I calmed down I discovered that this was nothing less than a nationalist 'wimmin's' magazine. Some National Socialist right-on sisters?

"Our White ancestors saw females as strong, knowledgeable, and wise. Learn the culture that is ours. Aryan women are doers; strive to make ourselves the best and the fittest by taking control of our own destiny."

Bloody hell! But then the next paragraph went and spoilt it all by suggesting that "taking control of our own destiny" meant cooking and cleaning up after your man, and giving him a cuddle when he gets battered by the Reds. So it seems that all in all the consensus of the Far-right is men should bond, women should breed, and while you might personally indulge, there'll be no legal recognition under a fascist regime of a man's union with his Yorkshire Terrier. These people just don't know how to party do they?

I'll leave you with some words from 'Old' Nick Griffin, who gives an apocalyptic warning, if whiteness doesn't get the upper hand in the Race War.

"Whether this happens soon enough to undo the damage which the anti-White elements of the problem have done, or whether it will be too late to do anything other than go down in a blaze of doomed and bloody glory in a global Isandahwana, is another matter."

We reckon the damage has already been done Nick, so start whistling *Men of Harlech*, and we'll send the Zulus round.



John 'Meat' Tyndall

➤ THE FIRST ANTI-FASCISTS

The rise to power of Mussolini and the Fascists in Italy, from 1919 to 1922, provides us with important lessons, not just about Fascism but also about the tactics & organisation necessary to fight it. Equally the critical role of the wider working class struggle is thrown into sharp focus. We believe the lessons are clear enough that they emerge simply from relating the story...

The first "Combat Group" (*Fascio di Combattimento*) was founded on 23rd March 1919 by 118 assorted war veterans (especially *Arditi* - shock assault troops); Futurists and ex-Leftists like Mussolini himself, who had "gone nationalist" during the war. Their programme had many "socialistic" and "syndicalistic" elements. At its birth Fascism was thus able to present itself as a radical, revolutionary movement to sweep away the status quo by any means necessary.

But by 1921 there should have been no illusions. Mussolini's organisation would have collapsed by the summer of 1920 had its potential for anti-working class direct action not been recognised. It was the landowners of northern and central Italy who welcomed the formation of squads of urban blackshirts to go out into the countryside and smash the peasant leagues and Left organisations. Soon money and support was flowing in from urban industrialists as well.

This Fascist movement was mostly middle or lower middle class: ex-officers and NCOs; white collar workers, students and the self-employed in the towns; the sons of tenant farmers, small land owners and estate managers in the countryside (ever been to a pub on a Young Farmers night?). Furthermore the police and military both turned a blind eye and provided covert assistance, encouraging ex-officers to join and train the squads; lending them vehicles and weapons and, if necessary, intervening to save their bacon (no pun intended).

The decisive involvement and support of these bourgeois elements has a simple explanation. Fascism in Italy was a "preventive counter-revolution". The Fascist squads were used to stop a working class revolution taking place and to wipe out all the reformist gains of the unions and the parliamentary movement. The rural and urban capitalists, and those who felt under threat from rising working class power, were badly scared by the events of 1919 and 1920 - the so-called "two red years". These years were marked by the cost-of-living riots, strikes, land seizures and factory occupations.



"If we do not carry on to the end, we will pay with tears of blood for the fear we now instil in the bourgeoisie"

With the mass factory occupations in September 1920 a defining moment was reached. Things had gone so far that turning back was not a real option. As Errico Malatesta predicted: "If we do not carry on to the end, we will pay with tears of blood for the fear we now instil in the bourgeoisie". But there was a loss of nerve, not among those occupying the factories, but among the leaders of the Socialist Party (PSI) and the CGL union. Instead of expanding the industrial struggle and linking it directly with the various community and rural struggles, they negotiated a deal and ordered their members back to work. And at the moment that the momentum was lost

the rattled bourgeois were given their moment for revenge. The fascist squads were to be the instrument of that revenge.

So in one sense Fascism's success began with the failure of the working class to consolidate and press forward. And much of the blame for that must fall on the reformist Left. As usual the bosses showed a far greater grasp of the fundamentals of class warfare. As soon as they had the chance to put the boot in they didn't distinguish between the "reasonable" trade unionists and socialists, who had settled for concessions in terms of hours, wages and conditions and the "extremists" calling for the smashing of capitalism.

And so from the autumn of 1920 Fascism's reign of terror began - at first in rural areas then, with increasing confidence, in the industrialised cities of the North. The favoured tactic was for squads to target individuals or to concentrate squads together and then launch punitive raids, spreading general terror and inflicting specific damage on "red" targets, particularly organisational buildings. Piece by piece the structure of the socialists; unions and peasant leagues was shredded. And yet it was demonstrated on numerous occasions that the fascists could be beaten - that when it came to it they were no match for determined and organised resistance.

The problem was that the Socialist Party, as the largest Left grouping, had one foot under the table with the capitalist state. So they consistently called on the state to deal with Fascism. And of course,

because they placed themselves within the frame of legalism, state power and "democracy", they had to condemn all violence as illegal including that of anti-fascists. This "fatal combination of revolutionary rhetoric and reformist practice" actively hindered the development of mass working class resistance. And the potential for such resistance was by no means an illusion.

In Livorno, for example, a town in which the Socialist Party had got over 51% of the vote in the 1919 elections and which had a strong anarchist presence, there was continuous unrest throughout 1920. There were strikes in January and April and then again in May, following a riot by anarchists and football supporters in Viareggio, which resulted in such widespread rioting in Livorno that 1000 Carabinieri and Royal Guards had to be brought in to control the streets. During the factory occupations in September the workers only reluctantly agreed to withdraw after pressure from the FIOM union.

The first significant Fascist incursion was on the 10th November when Fascists and soldiers tried to seize the town hall, following the example of successful disruptions of socialist councils elsewhere. However, as news of the raid spread, power workers turned out the lights and the working class districts mobilised *en masse* to march into the centre and reclaim it. Then again on the 16th February 1921 the Fascists attempted to break a strike by operating the trams. But they met mass resistance, with one tram load being attacked by over 400 people.

Street fighting in March 1921 resulted in the death of one local Fascist. In response they mounted a revenge raid on the Borgo dei Cappuccini, a working class area with a very militant history. Suffice to say the Blackshirts had to run for it when the entire neighbourhood mobilised against them. Again, on April 13th (1921), during the elections, they led an attack on one of the *Camero del Lavoro* (union centre). This was responded to by strike action on the 14th and the surrounding of a Fascist squad in the Barriera Garibaldi. Police, Carabinieri and Royal Guard were unable to restore order, so the army had to be sent in, with the strike and street

fighting continuing on throughout the next day (15th). On the 17th May another Fascist attempt to take the streets was defeated by a mass mobilisation.

As can be seen the general militancy of the working class in the industrial towns remained high. Moreover, militant socialists, communists, anarchists and republicans were organising together in anti-fascist groupings with a clear strategy of taking the Fascists on at their own game. Thus in April in Livorno a

context, for the success of this militia in towns like Livorno depended on:

"...their organic connection with the mass movement... demonstrated by their ability to melt back rapidly into the crowds in working class areas when pursued by the Fascists and the security forces, and the back up they received as a relatively small number of armed men, from the large number of men and women who were willing to throw anything that came to hand out of the windows of their dwellings on to the Fascists in the street below, or giving such practical assistance ... as helping to block the streets".

Nationally the Arditi del Popolo movement was marked by its autonomous structure, i.e. the independence of its local sections. In some areas groups were defined in terms of locality or workplace; in others by political affiliation (e.g. communist, anarchist etc.). In just one region we see them with some 300 militants at Pisa; 500 at Piombino and 800 at Livorno - and these are just the "shock troops" of the wider class resistance.

In Piombino the Arditi del Popolo "battalion" first saw action on July 19th 1921 after an assassination attempt on a socialist. The fascist meeting place was attacked and fascist rounded up from their homes and work places. When the Royal Guard intervened to prevent this they too were overwhelmed and disarmed. The workers held the streets for several days before the forces of law and order could regain control.

However, events at Sarzana in the same month drew particular attention to the resistance being mounted by the *Arditi*. The fascists had mounted a punitive expedition against the town on June 12th 1921 but had met with such determined resistance that they had to surrender and their leader Renato Ticci was put in custody, for his own safety, by the local authorities. Consequently several fascist gangs assembled to try and free him and teach the people of Sarzana a lesson.

However, on 21st July, when 500 fascists arrived at the railway station they had the unusual (for them) experience of being fired on by a detachment of a dozen Carabinieri and soldiers. As if this



Comitato di Difesa Proletaria (Workers Defence Committee) was formed, uniting the four political groups, the centres of the CGL and USI unions; the railway workers union and the LSS (*Lega Studentesca Soversiva*). The same month also saw a related anti-fascist organisation spreading rapidly and spontaneously through militant working class areas. Known as the "*Arditi del Popolo*" the organisation originated in Rome and was set up by demobbed soldiers. It was to provide a direct working class response to the armed Blackshirt gangs. These *Arditi* developed from the tradition of mass resistance / insurrection and were, in effect, an armed militia of the "Workers Defence Committees" etc. But let us immediately put this into

unexpected turn of events wasn't bad enough they then came under armed attack from the *Arditi*, supported by other Sarzana workers, who had not gone to work that morning in anticipation of the attack. As their casualties mounted the fascists were forced to flee into the countryside. But they were not safe even here, with the *Arditi* on their heels and the peasants of the area taking an active role in their pursuit and capture. Over 20 fascists were killed, although unofficial sources put the figure much higher. The fascist "chief of staff" for this expedition later commented: "The



"The squadra, so long accustomed to defeating an enemy who nearly always ran away or offered feeble resistance, could not, and did not know how to, defend themselves"

squadra, so long accustomed to defeating an enemy who nearly always ran away or offered feeble resistance, could not, and did not know how to, defend themselves".

Even Mussolini was worried by this willingness to take the fascists on and win. But once again, just as a defining moment was reached in the struggle, the Left caved in. Whilst thousands of socialist militants were involved in fighting the Fascists, the official organs of the Socialist Party were busy denouncing or hindering the *Arditi del Popolo*. Worse still they had been trying to arrange a truce with the Fascists since March 1921! Their predicament was clear - they were being methodically wiped out, especially in the rural areas. Yet a non-aggression treaty was no answer since by this time Fascism could clearly be seen as a class enemy, in the pay of the bosses, implacably hostile to even reformist socialism. But a "Pact of Pacification" was duly signed on August 2nd and, as a condition of that pact, the Socialist Party and the CGL disowned the *Arditi del Popolo* and ordered their members to withdraw from its ranks!

A second blow was not long in coming, care of the Italian Communist Party (a distinct entity from the start of 1921). The party leadership was at first equivocal about the *Arditi del Popolo*, despite the fact that many rank and file communist militants had involved themselves enthusiastically. Now the PCI called into question the class credentials of the movement and instructed their members to have nothing to do with it and to form

their own "pure" communist squads behind which the working class should unite.

Pure absurdity since that class had already spontaneously evolved its own broad organisations of defence, which the PCI was now undermining. Suffice it to quote Gramsci: "(the) tactic ... corresponded to the need to prevent the party members from being controlled by a leadership that was not the party leadership".

In effect these acts of class treachery fatally weakened the movement, reducing it to some 5,000 militants, mostly anarchists / anarcho-sindicalists. Not that resistance was going to end just because some wanted to stick their heads in the sand or play political games. But with the parliamentary Socialist Party busy condemning militant and armed resistance, the forces of the state, already in clear collusion with the fascists, could take an even more proactive role.

So, in Piombino, following the death of a local anarchist on September 3rd in a fire fight with Royal Guards and Fascists, the authorities launched a series of raids during the night, arresting and detaining some 200 comrades. The fascists immediately seized their opportunity and attacked and burned the Socialist Party offices. However, their advance was checked by an anarchist patrol, who were soon reinforced by groups of workers. And, as in Sarzanza a few months earlier, the fascists had no choice but to surrender to the police in order to escape a severe dose of working class justice.

The Fascists did not try to take Piombino again until April 25th 1922. Yet again they were beaten back by the *Arditi*. Indeed it was not until the 12th June that they were able to make a definitive assault, with the support of Royal Guards from Pisa. Even so it took a day and a half of heavy fighting before they were able to storm the offices of the USI and the printing press of the anarchist paper *Il Martello* and thus complete their conquest of the town.

Nationally the *coup de grace* came with the calling of a general strike against Fascism, the "strike for legality" of 31st July to 2nd August 1922. Although action was demanded by the rank and file, the strike was presented by the reformist leadership as a demand for parliament to defend constitutional liberties. As with all such demands the presumption was that liberal democracy was anything other than a convenient facade. In reality the opportunity to build real resistance had already been thrown away. The rural areas were lost and although workers in the major industrial cities responded the will to resist had been all but broken. The Fascists made sure to assist. Public service and railway workers remained at their posts - with fascist pistols trained on them.

With the collapse of the strike the Fascists attacked, massing their numbers to deal with the last outposts of resistance. Livorno succumbed to a force of 2,000 armed *squadristi* moving in from the surrounding region. The working class districts no longer had the energy or organisation to sustain the kind of street fighting they had maintained throughout 1921. As Mussolini was to boast, in "48 hours of systematic, war-like violence" the industrial towns of northern Italy were taken.

We can but salute those who fought to the end - the socialists and communists of Turin and the anarchists / *Arditi del Popolo* in Parma, where for five days a couple of hundred armed militants supported by the local community faced down and totally humiliated thousands of fascists, led by Italo Balbo. In the end the fascists had to withdraw and the army was sent in to finish off this last bastion of resistance.

It is not for us to say what might have been. The story speaks for itself. From the experience of the first anti-fascists let us learn: working class communities showed that the fascists could be beaten. The most effective form of anti-fascist organisation was a national "united front" of autonomous sections which found its consensus in the undiluted militancy of direct physical resistance and which drew its real strength from a revolutionary class consciousness and from deep roots in local communities and their ongoing struggle - for which anti-fascism was neither a substitute nor an optional extra.

FIGHTING TALK

GET 'EM OFF?

Dear FT,

With an estimated 35 million users worldwide, there is no doubting that the Internet has become a powerful means of communication. It is the ability of the Internet to bypass national boundaries and governments that has excited most controversy, and this has not gone unnoticed by fascist groups around the world. For instance, the Internet offers the opportunity for Holocaust denial material to be distributed in countries where it is illegal, without any fear of prosecution. There is a huge amount of fascist activity on the Internet and anti-fascists have been slow to take up the challenge, particularly in the UK. But what should be the proper response of anti-fascists to fascist activity on the Internet?

A spokesperson for the ANL recently told The Web magazine that groups like the BNP shouldn't be entitled to free speech on the Internet, claiming "That's what the ANL's about, we're against them having a platform." The problem for the ANL is that fascism on the Internet could only be banned or censored by either governments or Access Providers like Compuserve. So therefore the ANL would be asking these agencies to do the job in cyberspace that the ANL found impossible to do on the streets of Britain. In any case it is doubtful that such a move would work, the Internet is so versatile and adaptable that any kind of ban is unfeasible.

The role of militant anti-fascists is not to appeal to a third party to ban fascism. We all know where that road leads. This is because we recognise that such a

move is a backward step. It gives credibility to the fascists, and strengthens the hand of governments to act against anti-fascists. On the other hand, it is not our job to campaign alongside libertarians and liberals for freedom of speech for fascists and racists. The campaign against censorship on the Internet has been eagerly embraced by fascists, and in some cases the support has been reciprocated. The job for militant anti-fascists is to promote anti-fascist politics in the very arenas where the fascists are active. We should make every effort to put anti-fascist material onto the Internet whenever and wherever possible.

B.D., Manchester

FT Reply: Some relevant points have been made in this letter and it is an important step for anti-fascists to make use of the Internet. Two points though; access to the Internet remains (in this country at least) restricted to the middle class and those with a vested interest (although we can conjecture that this will change over time, but so too might the nature of the Internet). Secondly, there are means available to "take out" web sites, at least temporarily, and whilst we agree that appealing for censorship is wrong, some militant action against the fascists in Cyberspace would not go amiss (anoraks take note).

An AFA web site has been set up. You can find it at:
<http://www.fooobar.co.uk/users/ankh/afa>

THE NAKED TRUTH

Dear FT,

I used to be member of the ANL and recently received a letter from them inviting me to re-affiliate. The letter says ".....throughout 1995 we continued to challenge the nazis whenever they tried to organise....." although the ANL seems to have been absent from every successful clash between fascists and anti-fascists for many years. The only example of ANL activity they provide for a whole year is being "centrally" involved in the TUC march against racism in Manchester in October 95. Maybe they see the fight against fascism as being led by the conservative leaders of the TUC? To make matters worse the letter is signed by Peter Hain, the Labour MP. If Labour get elected, which seems likely, then the ANL will be directly linked to the government and will therefore also be linked to the anti-working class measures they are pledged to introduce. This is not an anti-fascist strategy - it is a disaster! K.M., Northampton.

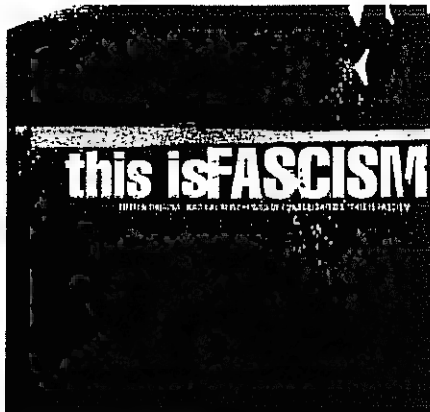
Hands in Pockets!

To Fighting Talk,

Bookmarks and Housmans Bookshop face a very serious legal and financial threat. They have been singled out and are being sued for libel because they have sold Searchlight. Anyone claiming they have been libelled by an item in a magazine can, under current laws, sue any bookshop or distributor which they allege sold the issue concerned (as well as suing the publisher). This situation is not only absurd, but also dangerous because of the threat that it poses to the continued existence of the dwindling number of outlets for alternative and progressive literature.

So a campaign has been launched to raise the funds necessary to legally defend the two shops - it could cost thousands of pounds. If you wish to see thriving independent bookshops which refuse to be intimidated, please give generously. Please make donations payable to "Bookshop Libel Fund" and send to Housmans Bookshop, 5. Caledonian Rd., London, N1 9DX.

FT: Searchlight are being sued by Mark Taha. For legal reasons we can't go into the details. We urge our readers to take this appeal seriously. Both shops sell FT, as well as many other worthwhile publications, and should be supported.



THIS IS FASCISM
Double CD - MC Projects

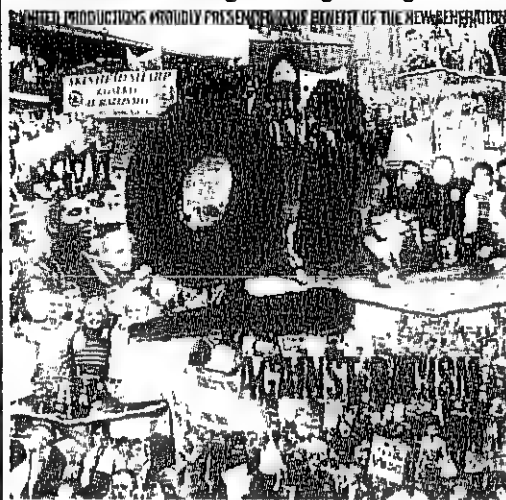
Freedom of Movement (F.O.M.) is an organisation that was set up to promote militant anti-fascism within the dance music scene, and they have secured remixes of what was originally a Consolidated tune from some of the top names currently recording in this scene. The full line up reads: Drum Club, Carl Cox, D.I.Y., Lion Rock, Fun-da-mental, David Holmes, Pressure Drop, United Spirits of Rhythm, New Fast Automatic Daffodils, Johnny Moy, Cold Cut, C.P.U., Jack Dangers, Mark Pistel, DJ Shufflemaster. The compilation has been put out by MC Projects, who were more than happy to release the record as a benefit after other labels dragged their feet.

Musically the record covers a wide range of electronic synth-based music from full-on techno to laid-back trip-hop and subtle ambience. Those of you looking for a solid kick-drum to go mental to are going to have to be content with the DJ Shufflemaster and Carl Cox mixes. One is an absolutely huge techno track with a distorted vocal sample that is

Oi! Against Racism

Oi Against Racism
LP - HAL LP 004

Oi may not be that popular in Britain at the moment but in other parts of Europe it seems as popular as ever. More importantly though is the growing number of Oi bands and labels prepared to take an openly anti-fascist stand. This compilation from Italian label Having A Laugh brings



together some of today's best Oi bands as well as old faves like The Upstarts who contribute 'Kids on the Street' recorded live in 1982. The Upstarts headlined large anti-fascist festivals in Italy and Germany. Five Italian bands are featured, particularly Klaxon and Klasse Kriminale. Also featured are The Stage Bottles from Germany who contribute a great track 'We've got to fight' which combines Oi with touches of ska. Other highlights include Attila The Stockbroker's 'This is free Europe' and The Oppressed's 'Sleeping with the enemy' - but the best of all is Red Alert's 'One Flag' which is a real scorcher!

With a lyric sheet providing translations of the foreign language bands, although a little muddled in places gives a good idea of what the bands are singing about, this is the best Oi album produced in recent years and represents the positive side of Oi/skinhead culture.

used almost as another percussive instrument. This mix pounds along and causes chaos when played in clubs. The other by the legendary Carl Cox is definitely a more atmospheric trance outing, typical of the stuff he's producing these days and of a very high quality. The rest of the compilation seems more suited to either home-listening or chill-out rooms, no doubt clubbers will soon

be hearing these tracks as they take a break from the dance floor. My personal recommendation would be the Lion Rock mix which is a deep brooding piece of music, definite late night material.

Freedom of Movement have produced this double CD as a benefit for AFA - so buy it. (see merchandise page for details)

"one of the few bands, especially on the Oi scene, to have the guts to take a stand"

THE OPPRESSED - Live at the Cardiff Hippo Club (10/3/96)

After 15 years this was The Oppressed's farewell gig and it was great that so many people made the trip to Cardiff for this final chance to catch the band live. As soon as the band took to the stage and launched into early numbers like *Work Together* Roddy and the boys had the crowd leaping all over the place creating a brilliant atmosphere. Other highlights included *Fuck Fascism* and *Skinhead Girl* as well as great cover versions of The Neurotics' *Living with Unemployment*, The Maytals' *Pressure Drop* and Slade's *Cum On Feel The Noize*.

The crowd were left in no doubt about the political nature of the gig when Roddy announced that the band were proud to be playing in front of the AFA banner and the high number of skins at the gig proved the media stereotype of all skins being nazis to be complete bollocks.

Stewarded by Roddy's mates from the local rugby club and with a number of AFA stewards in attendance as well the fash made a wise decision in staying away. All in all a great farewell for one of the few bands, especially on the Oi scene, to have the guts to take a stand.



REVIEWS - BOOKS

RENEGADES - Hitler's Englishmen
Adrian Weale
£6.99, Warner Books

This book tells of the attempts of Waffen SS personnel to develop Foreign Legions made up of fascists and sympathisers from Allied countries, and of the part key British fascists played in these developments. It also proves a useful reminder of the origins of British fascism in the supposedly anti-fascist, pro-democracy Establishment of the 20s and 30s. In setting out the development of the various fascist groupings of the British Right, Weale concentrates on two figures, Oswald Mosley and William Joyce.

William Joyce's first political act was to enlist as an informer to the Auxiliaries who backed up the Black and Tans in their campaign against the Irish people "by the use of torture, rape, murder and looting against a civil population." The author is clear that these pro-Unionist forces formed the basic cadre of British fascism, "young, upper class hearties. Inheritors of the violent tradition of the Auxiliaries of the Irish rebellion." Faced with the prospect of internment at the start of the war in 1939, Joyce fled to Berlin to live in comfort while planning propaganda broadcasts to demoralise British troops, (through which he achieved a degree of infamy as Lord Haw-Haw).

John Amery was the son of a Conservative MP. Originally based in Vichy France, he also moved to Berlin to broadcast a 'British hour' and, with Joyce, help found a British 'foreign legion'. It was the Waffen SS who had seized on using 'foreign' regiments as a means of establishing armed units outside the control of the regular armed forces; Norwegians, Danes, Flemish - all were called for the "European crusade against Bolshevism" (and to expand the Waffen SS power base). In 1943 a regiment of Bosnian Muslims was raised, wearing a red fez with SS insignia, to fight against Tito's predominantly Christian Serb partisans. A "Free Indian Legion" was recruited from British Indian Army troops in North Africa. By the end of the war, of the 900,000 men in the Waffen SS, more than half were born outside the borders of Germany.

It took until 1944 for enough volunteers to be recruited to form the British Free Corps. At this point the unit's activities consisted of German lessons and PT exercises. One soldier contented himself with selling the contents of the unit's stores to German soldiers. The unit was only moved to Dresden for military

training after representations from the German barracks commander about moving the Corps somewhere else. By January 1945, the BFC reached its peak of 27 members! This carried sufficient pride to swell through their ranks that six of the unit then deserted.

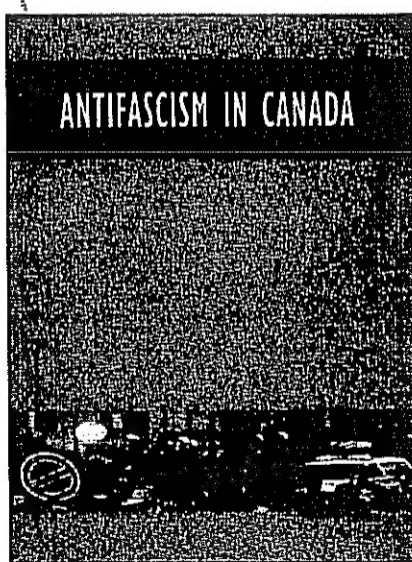
The Allied destruction of Dresden in 1945 meant the BFC unit was moved to Berlin, to fight. At the front more desertions were only prevented by fear of execution by the military police. It was decided by the German military command at this point that it was not "wise to use the unit in a combat role." By the time German soldiers had begun to surrender to advancing US forces the BFC had fragmented. Most were eventually arrested and shipped back to the UK.

Only 2 of the British 'renegades' were tried and given the death penalty - William Joyce and John Amery. The rest received



Members of the BFC in uniform (note the Union Jack flash and armband on the lower sleeve).

sentences ranging from life to nine months. Some were not brought to trial at all. A well researched book, at times amusing, but be warned, its not written from any sort of progressive viewpoint - since when were MI5 a humane organisation?



ANTIFASCISM IN CANADA
£3.00, Antifa Forum

This excellent 48 page magazine is produced by Antifa Forum, a group of Canadian militants who are actively involved in the anti-fascist movement over there.

The magazine is divided into three sections. The first part provides a detailed history of the growth of fascist

groups in Canada since the 1980s, particularly their efforts to recruit youth, and how this led to the creation of militant anti-fascist opposition.

The second part looks at the links between the state and the fascists, again with a wealth of historical detail, for example the recruitment of European nazis in the 1950s to act as 'unionbusters'. It shows how the state uses the fascists to attack progressive groups and how the police 'Hate Crimes Units', supposedly set up to monitor the far-right, ended up being used against militant anti-fascists.

The final section examines the leading role that Anti-Racist Action has played in the Canadian anti-fascist struggle, but concludes that new strategies must be developed to counter the political influence the far-right is gaining in the white working class.

This magazine provides loads of information, is well laid out and fully illustrated. Highly recommended.

Available from: AFA, BM 1734, London, WC1N 3XX. £3 cheque/P.O. payable to 'AFA'.



EVERYWHERE WE GO: Behind the Matchday Madness
Dogie & Eddy Brimson
 £6.99, Headline Book Publishing

Over the years there have been many books on the subject of football violence. So it came as no surprise that another had hit the shelves to coincide with the build-up to Euro 96. 'Everywhere We Go' (EWG) promises to "give the most remarkable and frightening insight into the behaviour of the football thug". Despite this promise we are left with 245 pages of nonsense written by two brothers who claim to be ex-Watford hooligans. The only reason EWG has any relevance to anti-fascism is that it contains chapters on racism and the Far Right.

The authors make it clear that they abhor racism themselves but claim that racism

at football is blown out of all proportion. That the real problem is all the campaigns against racism, "what we supporters hate is people telling us what we are or what we should be, now that is what I call racist." The subject of Eric is brought up "when Cantona lost the plot at Palace, I waited with baited breath to see how long it would be before someone played the racism card." We are told that a wicked campaign was started against Matthew Simmons for being a fascist without proof, this despite some of his closest mates saying he was in the BNP.

They approached C18, BNP and other groups to contribute about the events in Dublin. The only reply they received was from a northern member of the BNP, whose (totally unbelievable) letter forms the whole chapter on the Far Right at football. It is not worth going into the bollocks that is written as it is a 'we did this, we did that, we did everything' account of how the BNP invaded Dublin. At the time the BNP denied any involvement - "The Party loathes and deplores this kind of insane behaviour and would take instant disciplinary action." (Spearhead, March 1995). Whereas C18 claimed to anyone that would listen that it was all down to them - "The lads were only there for a good fight." (Charlie Sargent, February '95 - Sunday World). So much for EWG's analysis.

This book is as fake as the shaved head publicity photo of the brothers Brimson. Neither of these two has any understanding of the issues raised by racism or the Far Right at football, which is why their naivety can be so damaging.

Don't waste your money.

FUHRER - EX
Ingo Hasselbach
 £10.99 Chatto & Windus.

Hasselbach was born in East Berlin, the son of a committed Stalinist. Growing up under the East German regime he drifted initially into the punk scene. In 1987 he was jailed for shouting "The wall must fall" at a festival to honour Soviet troops. In jail his politicisation began at the hands of old Nazi war criminals. With the collapse of the East German regime and the "fall of the wall" Hasselbach met West German neo-nazis recruiting in the refugee camps.

Hasselbach was one of the founders of the National Alternative, and a close associate of Michael Kuhnen, Christian Worch and Gottfried Kussell, the major players of German fascism. However his book is weak on the political life of the movement he represented. One reason for this is that Hasselbach wants to distance himself intellectually from his former cause by turning it into a caricature of boneheads led by Hollywood nazis.

He claims a film crew he was working with persuaded him to change his mind about fascism and he had a growing distaste for anti-immigrant violence. The extent of the author's involvement makes his break with Nazism so quickly and straightforwardly somewhat unconvincing. The most interesting part of the book is how the fascists grew in East Germany, but as militant anti-fascists in Germany have said to us, his motives for writing the book and quitting the 'movement' are not entirely clear, possibly financial, and he has offered no assistance to the people in the front line against fascism in Germany.

Albert Meltzer: An Obituary

Albert Meltzer, who died recently aged 86, was sent off fondly by his comrades and friends at a service in Lee, South London. He spent all of his adult years engaged in militant political activity, and was a pivotal figure in the anarchist movement in this country.

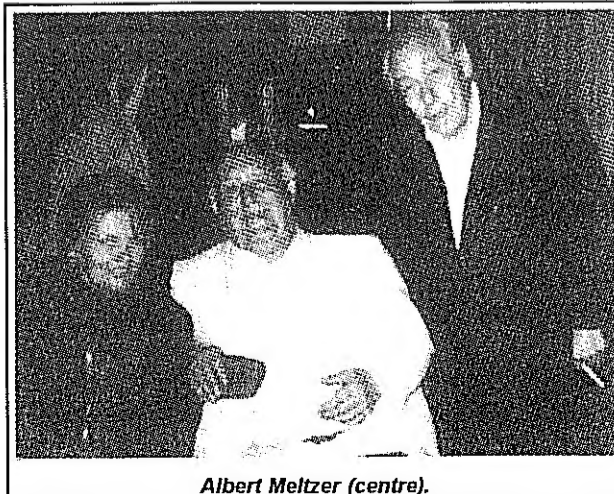
His contribution to the struggle against fascism throughout his life, like that of most serious militants, cannot be measured in words. He down-played his own role until the end. Even in the twilight years of his life he still helped wherever he could, turning up as a character witness at the trial of one AFA militant convicted at Weavers Fields in 1989, dressed in a dapper white suit, and looking much like the Godfather he had

become to many of us younger anarchists.

For one so long engaged in political struggle, Albert never showed a trace of bitterness, and kept a smile on his face until the end. His example to me was a very simple one. Albert's physical past (and continuing ability), his political determination, and his rejection of many of the arseholes who call themselves anarchists - was married to an (un)sentimental

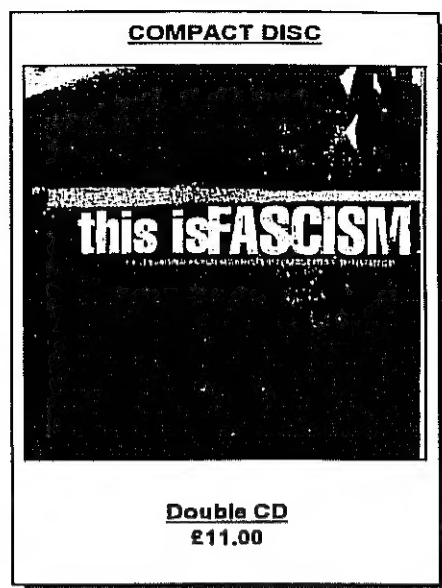
gentleness of character, a total lack of ego or machismo, and a genuine affection and love for his comrades and friends. I'm proud to have made his acquaintance.

Sid Martell



Albert Meltzer (centre).

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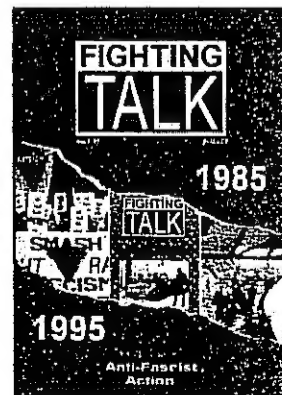
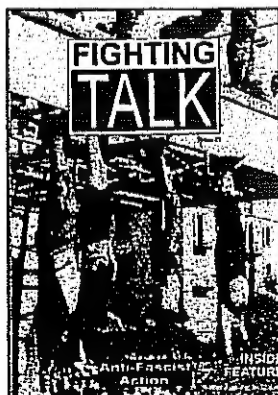
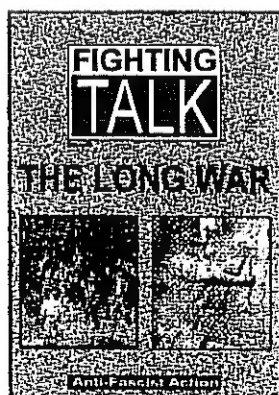
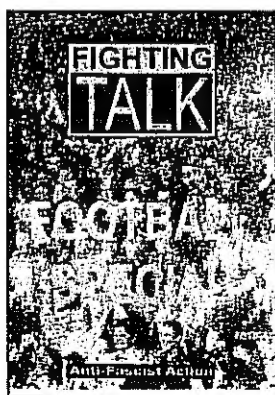
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